

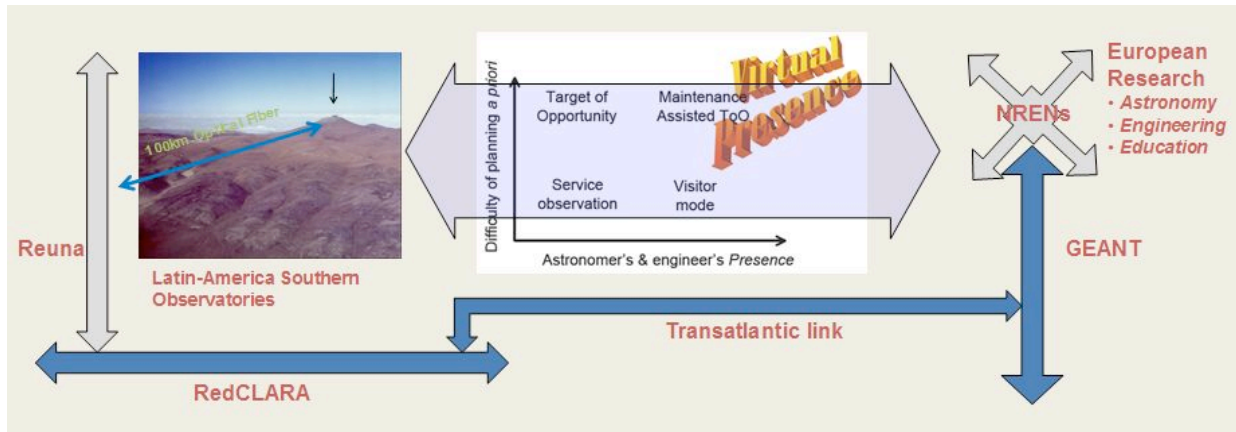


EVALSO

(Enabling Virtual Access to Latin-American Southern Observatories)

The project aims at creating a physical infrastructure (and the tools to exploit it) to efficiently connect the ESO Very Large Telescope VLT at Cerro Paranal and the RUB OCA Observatories at Cerro Amazonas to Europe.

The project will build on international infrastructures created in the last years with the European Commission EC support (RedCLARA, GEANT) to provide European Research a competitive edge having faster access to the collected data and use the facilities in an ever more efficient way.



EVALSO is run by a consortium made by a number of European and Latin America institutions:

- Università degli Studi di Trieste (Italy)
- European Organisation for Astronomical Research in the Southern Hemisphere
- Ruhr-Universität Bochum (Germany)
- Consortium GARR (Italy)
- Universiteit Leiden (The Netherlands)
- Istituto Nazionale di Astrofisica (Italy)
- Queen Mary and Westfield College, University of London (United Kingdom)
- Cooperación Latino Americana de Redes Avanzadas (Uruguay)
- Red Universitaria Nacional (Chile)

One of the key objectives of the EVALSO project is to improve the connectivity of two Astronomical Observatories in Chile:

- ESO's Cerro Paranal Observatory
- RUB's Observatorio Cerro Amazonas (OCA)

Both Observatories are located in the region south of Antofagasta, approximately 1500 km north of Santiago, in the Atacama desert. The connectivity to the worldwide research internet is currently based on a microwave link, but it is recognized that a much higher capacity, more reliable link will be required for the research purposes of the international scientific community in the area. As a consequence a dedicated fibre-optic infrastructure is being procured.

New services based on this new infrastructure will be deployed; allowing researcher to transfer data in real-time and to interact in an highly efficient way with research partners located in both continents.

A virtual presence system will be developed and tested, to open the possibility to European and Chile based scientists to interact and co-operate having in real-time an up-to-date information of the state of the systems.

